UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/976,813	10/12/2001	Edward Larue Stull	010809-0003-999	4122

			EXAMINER
20583	7590	04/19/2006	PRIETO, BEATRIZ

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ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2142	

DATE MAILED: 04/19/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PTO-90C (Rev. 10/03)

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	09/976,813	STULL ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Prieto B.	2142	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>3/28/06</u>.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) <u>1-39 and 44-46</u> is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) <u>40-43</u> is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) <u>1-39 and 44-46</u> is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on <u>26 June 2005</u> is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

    1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

    2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

    3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6)☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1.   This communication is in response to Election/Restriction Response filed 3/28/06, claims 1-39
and 44-46 of Group I have been elected and 1-46 remain pending.

2.   Claim 5, 34 and 36 contains the trademark/trade name(s), e.g. DB2, Oracle, Sybase, MS SQL
server.   Where a trademark or trade name is used in a claim as a limitation to identify or describe a
particular material or product, the claim does not comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112, second
paragraph. See *Ex parte Simpson*, 218 USPQ 1020 (Bd. App. 1982). The claim scope is uncertain since
the trademark or trade name cannot be used properly to identify any particular material or product. A
trademark or trade name is used to identify a source of goods, and not the goods themselves. Thus, a
trademark or trade name does not identify or describe the goods associated with the trademark or trade
name. In the present case, the trademark/trade name is used to identify/describe the above-mentioned
name(s) and, accordingly, the identification/description is indefinite. Correction is required.

Claim Rejection under USC 102

3.   Quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 USC 102 that form the basis for the rejections
under this section made in this Office action may be found in previous office action.

4.   Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being unpatentable over Bogrett (US 6,581,054).

Regarding claim 1, Bogrett teaches a data management system (col 4/lines 8-23), comprising:

an interface (114) for connecting the system (14) to a data source (20) via connections (col 3/lines
39-51);

at least one facility (30) linked via connection (18) to the interface for managing the one or more
data sources (col 4/lines 8-22); and

computer (110) having a set of tools "portal" comprising a plurality of data viewers (116-126)
each having access to a data source (col 18/lines 62-63, col 2/lines 4-21) for viewing data thereof (col
4/lines 61-col 8/line 43);

the portal being configured to perform analysis of data in the data source (col 3/lines 27-34) and
displaying the results of an analysis (fig. 5, step 298-302, col 11/lines 57-62), the portal having one of the
following management features:

file create (new), save or open functions (see Fig. 11, see tool bar menu 488, col 16/lines 17-24).

Regarding claims 2-3, wherein one of the data sources is remotely accessible via "telecommunication" network, such as the internet or intranet (Bogrett: col 3/lines 51-53).

Regarding claim 4-5, two data sources that operate under different data systems including one or more data systems, e.g. DB2, Oracle, Sybase, MS SQL server (Bogrett: col 6/lines 33-35).

Regarding claim 6, the interface configured to create, edit, organize, select, and delete "connection specifications" information for said one data sources (Bogrett: Fig. 11, tool bar 488).

Regarding claim 7, wherein data viewers are one table viewer showing data in a table format (Bogrett: col 8/lines 5-14).

Claim Rejection under USC 103

5.   Quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 USC 103(a) that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action may be found in previous office action.

6.   Claim 8 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bogrett in view of Lai et. al. US 5,596,745 (Lai hereafter).

Regarding claim 8, wherein the portal enables concurrent visualization and manipulation of data from different sources.

Lai teachings regarding providing connections to source data which allows users to view data structures disclose a system and method for managing data source (databases) connection between concurrent user applications and a plurality of databases in a database management system (abstract), including

viewing and manipulating data from a data source response to user input (abstract), current systems support concurrent access to many databases or support multiple connections to single database (col 1/lines 38-47); displaying information from different databases via multiple concurrent connections (col 1/lines 48-col 2/line 10), connection supporting the retrieval and manipulate data col 4/lines 33-37); and

maintaining concurrent multiple connection between a single or multiple databases (col 2/lines 13-21, col 3/lines 34-37).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time the invention was made the concurrently accessing via multiple concurrent connections a single or multiple database was old and well known as exemplified by the applied reference. One would be motivated to apply the teachings of this reference because in doing so the user may manage many different reports derived from the same database or multiple databases without incurring in the overheads and/or degradations disclosed by the applied reference.

7.   Claims 9-19 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bogrett, as applied on claim 1, in further view of Lipkin (US 6,721,747)

Regarding claim 9, comprising a state-save facility that records the status of the system operations.

Lipkin teachings regarding providing connections to source data which allows users to view data structures, disclosing a method and apparatus for managing information in an information resource system containing a server, a client, and a data source/database.

framework for saving and restoring object state including creating new, restoring, updating existing, deleting and searching for objects regarding database system operations (col 12/lines 1-11), framework includes an algorithm for saving the state of an object (col 19/lines 37-52), wherein each type of object contains reference to the method of operations performed thereon including insert, update, delete or fetch a given instance of that object from the persistent storage (col 13/lines 1-5), e.g. as database procedure calls (col 16/lines 48-51); including

save state of system operations (col 22/lines 63-65) said databases comprising two data sources that operate under different data systems including one or more data systems, e.g. DB2, Oracle, Sybase, MS SQL server (col 11/lines 39-42) and

monitoring and recording data sources accessed for display by the viewer to which each data source is associated (Lipkin: col 22/lines 29-62).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time the invention was made given the teachings of Bogrett for accessing a single or multiple database to utilize the teachings of Lipkin for managing information in an information resource system containing a server, a client, and a data source. One would be motivated to apply the teachings of Lipkin because in doing so a logging functionality for capturing the system state and operations is provided.

Regarding claim 10, the status can be restored in an open environment (Lipkin: col 12/lines 1-11)

Regarding claim 11, a facility for monitoring and recording data sources accessed for display by the viewer to which each data source is associated (Lipkin: col 22/lines 29-62).

Regarding claim 12, views "portals" of Figure 11 of Bogrett associated with each corresponding window frame can be opened and closed though their respective close-window button (X in a square), window open (Square in square), or File menu option of the window browser having a drop-down menu open selecting a File command, further selecting Open command from the drop-down menu. Further, information from the state-save facility can be used to restore the last state of a saved portal upon re-opening the portal (Lipkin: col 12/lines 1-11 and col 19/lines 37-52.

Regarding claims 13-18, wherein contents of one portal can be merged with another portal in the same session, and or retrieve stored views (e.g. from another session same user and/or different users because views may be distributed and shared among groups) and combine during a current session (Bogrett: column 7, lines 61-column 8, line 4).

Regarding claim 19, wherein the interface operates with any JDBC connectivity (Bogrett: col 6/lines 36-39).

7.   Claims 20-23, 27-39 and 44-46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bogrett in view of Lipkin in further view of Prologo et. al. (US 6,823,478) (Prologo hereafter).

Regarding claims 20-23, 27 and 33, the above-mentioned reference(s) do not explicitly teach testing data.
        Prolog teaches a facility configured for create a test data set (column 1, lines 50-51), and compare the contents of two or more data sources (column 1, lines 60-68).
        It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include teachings of Prolog for testing stored files such as software application, component of a webpage or the like, as suggested by Prolog. One would be motivated to include these testing methods in Bogrett's system because in doing the system will generate error messages for content that is not in compliance with a predetermined order or format, where the error messages in a web/markup language based format suitable for the viewers in Bogrett's system thereby viewable remotely over the web, further

particularly without need to use the tested and/or upgraded processing environment, as suggested by Prolog.

Regarding claim 23, wherein the managing facility is configured to perform querying a data set (Bogrett: abstract)

7.   Claims 24-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bogrett in view of McLauchlin (US 6,754,672).

Regarding claims 24-26, however the above-mentioned references do not explicitly teach recording action nor setting these with read-only or write enable access mode.

McLauchlin teaches McLauchlin teaches a facility linked to an interface connecting users to a data managing system (column 4, lines 38-45, Fig 1) for managing the one or more data sources (Fig 1); a portal comprising data viewers having access to a data source and being configured to perform analysis of data in the data source and displaying the results of an analysis each portal having one management features to create, save, open, edit, merge and destroy (column 3, lines 35-45, column 12, lines 30-45);

wherein at least one of the data sources is remotely accessible via telecommunications network (column 6, lines 30-34, Fig 1); wherein the telecommunications network is the Internet (column 6, lines 30-34); where the interface is connected to at least two data sources that operate under different data systems (column 5, lines 1-5, 60-66, Fig 1); and

providing transcript facility including a record of actions performed in the system comprising a read-only and user-editable transcript facilities (column 6, lines 49-58 and column 8, lines 31-49).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made given to include the teachings of McLauchlin regarding a web-based portal to the Bogrett's system. One would be motivated to it would enable Bogrett's system with a single web-based interface from which to conduct all business transactions and exchanges of information enabling interoperability to access disparate data sources, as suggested by McLauchlin.

Regarding claim 27, this system claim comprises substantially the same limitations as those discussed on claim 27, same rationale of rejection is applicable. Further limitation(s) include, where the data sources are a plurality of data sources (Fig. 1, col 6/lines 29-35, col 3/lines 57-58), a graphical user interface "data input facility" (114) with data source selection capabilities of database or database portions to which the user has access rights thereto (col 7/lines 50-60, col 5/lines 57- 65, col 11/lines 41-49).

Regarding claim 28, wherein the portal comprises means for saving data analysis (Bogrett: Fig. 5, steps 302-310).

Regarding claim 29, a save portal state process, a restore portal state process, a share portal state process, a save data source definitions process, a restore data source definitions process, or a share data source definitions process (Lipkin: column 12, lines 1-11).

Regarding claim 30, this claim is substantially the same as claim 7, same rationale of rejection is applicable.

Regarding claims 31-37, these claims comprises limitations substantially the same as those discussed on claims 4-5 and/or 22, same rationale of rejection is applicable.

Regarding claim 38, context sensitive help facility as show on Fig. 11 of Bogrett.

Regarding claim 39, although Bogrett teaches displaying through the plurality of viewers data accessed from the data source, illustrating a web browser on Fig. 11 including a tool bar (486) having a "context help facility" HELP selection, he does not explicitly teach wherein the context sensitive help facility is actuated by clicking the right button of a mouse.

Official Notice (see MPEP § 2144.03 Reliance on "Well Known" Prior Art) is taken that help facility, graphical user interface and/or window actuated by clicking the right button of a mouse was old and well known in the art. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to include help facility is actuated by clicking the right button of a mouse, because in doing so it would assist the user of the data viewers in the Bogrett system to locate help files containing context sensitive information corresponding to the toolbar or menu item being selected by the click and displaying the information from the help file to the user in a pop-up window located near the toolbar or menu item being selected by the click avoiding the closure of all applications currently being viewed since the help facility typically overlays over any existing opened application, as known in the art (see pertinent prior art)

Regarding claims 44-46, this management system claim comprising features similar to those discussed on claims 1-29 same rationale of rejection is applicable.

Citation of Pertinent Art:

8.   The following prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Copies of Non-Patent Literature documents cited will be provided as set forth in MPEP§ 707.05(a):

Black et. al. (US 20030001875)

Black teaches a method for providing context sensitive help (see title) in an environment comprising toolbar or menu items (see Fig. 3), comprising the steps of: receiving input from a user directing a cursor of a computer mouse to a position over one of the toolbar or menu items [0004]; receiving user input corresponding to a click of the right button of the mouse [0004]; locating help files containing context sensitive information corresponding to the toolbar or menu item being selected by the click [0005]; and displaying the information from the help file to the user in a pop-up window located near the toolbar or menu item being selected by the click [0002].

(US 5,361,361)

Hickman et. al. teaches an hierarchical integrated help utility for a computer system, Disclosing a prior art help information provide help information to a user in some form, typically, where help files are initially installed in a computer system and made accessible to a computer user in various ways. In some systems, the installed help files are simply listed for selection by a user, in other systems, a context sensitive help utility displays specific help information as a particular command or menu item is selected. In still other systems, the cursor position and the particular region of the display in which it is located is used to activate a particular help file related to that portion of the display screen.

(US 6,728,700)

Richards et. al. discloses and User interface 210 provides the mechanism through which a user executing an application can invoke the help interface. User interface 210 is implemented graphically in a manner be understood by those reasonably skilled in the arts. To invoke interface 204, the user selects, typically with a pointing device, a graphical help menu option 300, as illustrated in Fig. 3A. Upon selection, a drop-down menu 302 appears with further help options including an option 303 for invoking the inventive user interface, which, as illustrated in Fig. 3A, bears the legend "Ask the Expert." Upon selection of the option 303, a bar-shaped user interface 304 appears. Bar user interface 304 generally

includes a number of graphic push buttons and a dialog box including a window area 306 for the user to enter a query in natural language words or phrases, as illustrated.

(US 5,778,381)

Sandifer discloses right clicking the mouse pointer over the help icon pops up a help box which briefly describes the current focus of the screen and how to proceed. Left clicking on the help icon launches the Windows help system and takes the user to the on-line reference manual.

(US 6,799,198)

Huboi discloses that if the user wanted help on how to use a feature, for example, click on the key, right click on the key and select a help button, or hold down the mouse over the key and select a help button, which would link to the user to Web based help on the feature. Help can be text based. The help text can be specifically modified by an administrator. Also, help could be multimedia help and include sound, images, and animated simulations of using the conference feature.

(US 5,321,750)

Nadan recognized that users typically want to view only a portion of a full page or record of source information and therefore use several video screens displaying different sources of information so that the information they wish to view is concurrently displayed on multiple screens is needed.

(US 5,596,745)

Lai et. al. teaches a system and procedure for concurrent database access by multiple user applications through shared connection processes. Browser (user agent UA) displaying information from different databases, responsive to user input, the UA may need to connect, access and disconnect from many different databases at various times, also, if the UA is managing many different reports derived from the same database, several concurrent connections to that same database may provided. Disclosing where modern client/server environments introduce generalized client database user applications that support multiple database servers, requiring many concurrent accesses to different databases.

(US 6,301,590)

Slow et. al. teaches a method and apparatus for formatting and displaying data from the internet. Specifically, where figures 8A-8B a compound display option format which allows a user to specify multiple reports and a format for the display of the multiple reports on a single page, wherein two

different formats of reports are presented to a user on a single page, namely a tabular format and a chart format, allowing the user to view the same data in multiple different graphical representations, and alternatively, display data from different sources concurrently, thus allowing the user to visually examine the different data on the same page.

10.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Prieto, B. whose telephone number is (571) 272-3902. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 6:00 to 3:30 p.m. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's Supervisor, Andrew T. Caldwell can be reached at (571) 272-3868. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3800/4700.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system, status information for published application may be obtained from either Private or Public PAIR, for unpublished application Private PAIR only (see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov or the Electronic Business Center at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Any response to this action should be mailed to:
              Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
              P.O. Box 1450
              Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
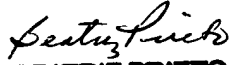
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